University of Trieste
Department of Engineering and Architecture
English 259MI
Instructor: Prof. Lourdes E. Gonzalez-Valera

Final Exam
Date:

Student Data:

Name:_____

Surname:_____

Identity Card Number or equivalent (carta d'identità, patente): _____

General information:

- Every question is worth two (2) points. Maximum score: 30. Pass score: 18
- Read carefully before answering the questions. Guessing is not advisable: for every two (2) wrong answers you'll lose two (2) points of the total score.

I

   a) Read carefully the following text.

The history of England before the Norman Conquest is poorly documented, but what stands out is the tenacity of the Anglo-Saxons in surviving a succession of invasions. They united most of what is now England from the 9th to the mid-11th century, only to be overthrown by the Normans in 1066. For two centuries Norman French became the language of the court and the ruling nobility; yet English prevailed and by 1362 had reestablished itself as an official language. Church Latin, as well as a residue of Norman French, was incorporated into the language during this period. It was subsequently enriched by the Latin and Greek of the educated scholars of the Renaissance.

   b) Based on the previous content, select the choice that completes the bolded sentence below.

The text wants to draw attention to

   1. the weak character of Anglo-Saxon people

   2. the polyglot quality of the English language

   3. the adoption of French by the Anglo-Saxons before 1066

   4. the capacity of Anglo-Saxons to disperse people

II

   a) Read carefully the following text.

For hundreds of years, technology has been driving the evolution of the English language. In the fifteenth century, the invention of the printing press established standard methods of spelling English words. New forms of punctuation were invented to make printed texts easier to read, and for the first time people from different regions began to agree about English grammar. The invention of the telegraph, and later of the radio and the television, had an effect on the English language. New words were invented to describe these new technologies, and new styles of speech were invented by broadcasters. However, it is the Internet that has had the largest effect on the English language, changing it completely in less than two decades.

   b) Based on the previous content, select the choice that is true.

   1. The spelling of English words was standardized before the invention of the printing press

   2. The invention of the telegraph was decisive in the foundation of English orthography

   3. English vocabulary was undermined by the invention of the telegraph, the radio and the television.

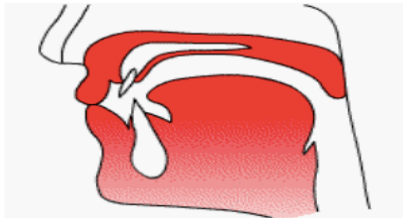   4. The Internet has had a groundbreaking influence on the English language in the past decades.
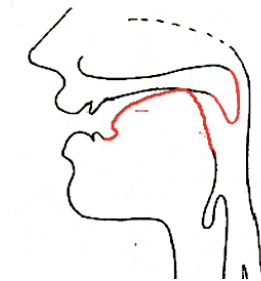
III

a) Read the following paragraph:

In English there are bilabial, labiodental and interdental sounds depending on what parts of the mouth are used when they are articulated. Bilabial sounds are pronounced using both lips in words like **m**uch, **m**e, **p**ile. Labiodental sounds are articulated using the lower lip and the upper teeth, for example in **f**ile, **ph**ysics, and **f**uture. Interdental sounds, on the other hand, are produced by putting the tip of the tongue between the upper and the lower teeth in words like **th**is, **th**ing, **th**in.

b) Analyse the following figures and identify the one that represents the interdental sound **[th]** in the word **th**eme.
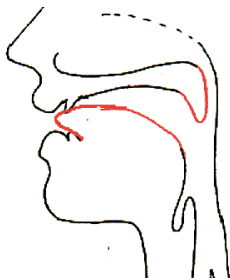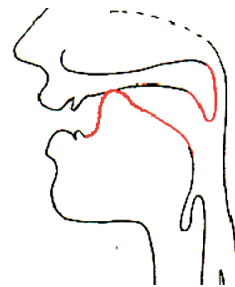
1.

2.

3.

4.

IV

a) Read the following text.

English has a sound called glottal fricative, which is produced in the glottis (thus glottal) in a kind of friction (thus fricative). This is the first sound in the words **h**ome, **h**igh, **h**ello. When Italians speak English, they often ignore the [h] sound maybe because Italian does not have it in its phonemic system. However, failing to pronounce [h] may lead to misunderstandings since there are words with different meaning depending on the presence or absence of [h], for example **heart/art, hate/eight, hall/all, hi/eye.**

b) Based on the previous text, select the choice <u>that is false</u>

1) The pronunciation of [h] at the beginning of a word is not compulsory in English.
2) The [h] sound in English is described in phonetics as glottal fricative.
3) Italians often overlook the pronunciation of [h] at the beginning of words in English.
4) Failing to pronounce [h] at the beginning of an English word may lead to misinterpretations.

V

Please, read:

The vast majority of native English speakers worldwide pronounce every written [r], including most speakers in America, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, India and Pakistan. These are known as 'rhotic' speakers. English accents that follow the silent [r] rule are known as 'non-rhotic', and these include most accents in England, Wales, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Since most native speakers of English worldwide are rhotic, and rhoticity doesn't tend to cause any problems in comprehension, there is no particular reason for learners of English as a second language to follow the silent [r] rule. If, however, the learner is aiming for a standard Great Britain English pronunciation, the rule needs to be learnt and practised.

According to the text above, select the statement that is true:

1. English learners must be trained in the pronunciation of every written [r] sound; otherwise they might cause problems in comprehension.

2. English students must learn and practice the silent [r] sound since this is the pronunciation of the vast majority of English native speakers.

3. English learners who want to sound like Londoners should exercise their [r] sounds in order to make them silent.

4. Among the English varieties of the world, there is a prevalence of non-rhotic speakers.

VI

The morphology of regular verbs in English is quite simple. For example, there are only two tenses in the indicative mode that can be differentiated by the presence of a suffix: present (-s), and preterit (-ed/-en). To form the simple future tense, English has to resort to additional words called auxiliaries (shall/will).

According to the above over-simplified rule, identify the correct sentence:

1. The group of noisy teenagers wearing strange customs wait for the bus to London.

2. The group of noisy teenagers wearing strange customs waits for the bus to London.

3. The group of noisy teenagers wearing strange customs waiting for the bus to London.

4. The group of noisy teenagers wearing strange customs had wait for the bus to London.

VII

In English, a noun can be preceded by several adjectives, which must be expressed in the following order: quantity, general opinion, *size,* age, shape*,* colour*,* origin*,* material *and* purpose*.*

According to this rule, select the sentence with the appropriate order of adjectives:

1. He recited a soothing, 15th century, Arabic, wonderful poem

2. He recited a 15th century, Arabic, wonderful, soothing poem

3. He recited a wonderful, soothing, 15th century, Arabic poem

4. He recited a wonderful, 15th century, Arabic, soothing poem

VIII

A phrasal verb in English is a verb like *pick up, turn on* or *get on with*. These verbs consist of a **basic verb + another word or words**. The two or three words that make up a phrasal verb form a short "phrase" --which is why we call them "phrasal verbs".

In the following paragraph you will be given the meaning of a very common phrasal verb. After reading it, identify the phrase that best completes the bolded sentence.

Phrasal verb: <u>fade away</u>
Meaning: to slowly become weaker, softer or dimmer

The sound of voices slowly faded away as the boat

1. came closer and closer
2. approached our coasts
3. drifted further down the river
4. suddenly sank

IX

An idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. For example, Italian's way of wishing luck to a person is often expressed with the **idiom** "in bocca al lupo".

a)   Read the meaning of the following idiom.

Idiom: **can of worms**
Meaning: Metaphorically speaking, to open a **can of worms** is to examine or attempt to solve some problem, only to inadvertently complicate it and create even more trouble.

b)   Identify the phrase that best completes the bolded sentence.

The investigators knew that examining the company's books might open a can of worms. They suspected there'd be

1. evidence of serious wrongdoings

2. a huge number of parasites

3. nothing seriously wrong

4. a library infestation

X

In linguistics, the informal term *false friends* refers to pairs of words in two languages (or in two dialects of the same language) that look and/or sound the same but have different meanings. For example, *largo* and *large* in Italian and English have a similar written form, but very different meanings. *Large* in English means *ampio*, *alto*, whereas *largo* in Italian means *wide* in English. Other common false friends in English for Italian speakers are: actually, currently, eventually, cold, vacancy, morbid, estate, patent, etc.

According to the definition above, select the best meaning for the following sentence:

"The Oriental Pearl" is without doubt an ugly restaurant, but actually serves the best Chinese food in town.

1. "The Oriental Pearl" is nowadays the best Chinese restaurant in town, whereas in the past it served poor-quality food.

2. "The pearl of Orient" is in fact the best Chinese restaurant in town in spite of being unattractive.

3. "The pearl of Orient" is not only decorated with poor taste, but at present its food is not very high quality either.

4. "The pearl of Orient" used to serve good-quality Chinese food in the past, which compensated for its striking decoration.

XI

"Text" is a term used in linguistics to refer to any passage spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole.

According to the above definition, select below which one **cannot** be described as a text:

1. An artichoke *lasagna* Roman recipe
2. An informal e-mail about a party
3. *United Colors of Benetton* last banner
4. The lyrics of "Imagine" by John Lennon

XII

A graduate thesis and a scientific paper are similar in many ways; for example, they both make use of a very formal style and they both try to present their arguments in the most objective way possible.

According to the above statement, which of the following is **false**:

1. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers, you should stay away from words like "I", "me", "my", "myself".

2. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you must avoid the use of jargon or non-standard speech.

3. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you should not use contractions, such as isn't and shouldn't.

4. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you must prefer common, colloquial language style.

XIII

An abstract is defined as a brief summary of a research article, thesis, review, conference proceeding, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose.

According to the above statement, which of the following elements must not be included in an abstract:

1. The overall purpose of the study and the research problems investigated

2. Acknowledgments to the institutions that have sponsored the study.

3. The basic design and research methods of your study.

4. Major findings obtained and a summary of your interpretations and conclusions.

XIV

A Curriculum Vitae (CV) is a standard document that gives details of your work experience, education, and background. It also gives your full name and contact details.
Not so many years ago, it was common for CVs to include an applicant's photograph, marital status, gender, religion or date of birth. Those days are long gone thanks to the introduction of recent anti-discrimination laws and changing attitudes in society.

According to the previous paragraph, select the true statement below:

1. When writing a CV you should include your religion so that your future employer knows what to expect about your religious leaves.
2. When writing a CV you should include a recent photography of yourself so that your future employer knows how you look like at present.
3. Currently, a CV must include the marital status of the applicant in order to calculate his/her monthly income.
4. Nowadays, age is not included as relevant information on your CV in order to prevent ageism in the selection process.

XV

Many scientific papers fail to usefully communicate research work to their audience. They focus on the authors instead of on the readers by failing to clarify the motivation for the work or by including unnecessary details. Or they try to impress the readers rather than to inform them. As a result, they are interesting to or understandable by only a small set of highly specialised readers. Effective scientific papers, in contrast, are interesting and useful to many readers, including newcomers to the field.

Based on the above text, select the true statement below:

1. Specifying your motivations in a scientific paper is considered personal information; therefore, it is not recommended in scientific writing.
2. You need to include as many details as possible about your research in order to reach a bigger audience
3. Failing to clarify the motivation for your research can be an obstacle for a good communication with your readers.
4. In order to succeed in effectively communicating research work you have to impress the audience with your knowledge about the research subject.